

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in the midst of all the serious business that is before the Senate, I and my good friend from Oregon, Senator SMITH, wanted to take a few minutes tonight and talk to the Senate about the great pride and joy that Oregonians are feeling tonight as a result of our terrific Oregon State Beavers who have won the college world series.

Showing incredible determination, they would not give up spirit. After losing their first games in both the tournament and in the championship series, the players at Oregon State and the coaching staff came back. They came back to be the first team since 1998 to lose their first game and go on to win the college title.

Senator SMITH and I are especially proud because in this day of professional sports seeming to be part of every college environment, most of these players are from Oregon. They come from almost every nook and cranny of our State. They come from the Pacific Northwest, and they represent the best values of our State—particularly hard work and a sense that if you just stay at it and you are persistent, you can get the job done.

We want to salute all the players, and particularly three we are going to be losing—three star pitchers: Jonah Nickerson, Dallas Buck, and Kevin Gunderson. They are going on to play professional next season. But we are going to be back in that world series next year.

I get a chance, along with my colleague, to enjoy so much that makes our State special. We try to team up on a bipartisan basis on some issues. But we are particularly thrilled as Oregonians' two U.S. Senators to make sure that the country sees that when you work hard, you play by the rules, and you don't give up, nearly always good things happen.

Tonight, Oregonians are wearing the orange and black of the Beavers.

I want to yield the rest of my time to my friend and colleague because, as Oregonians' two U.S. Senators, we are savoring this moment along with more than 3 million people who represent our State. I yield the remainder of my time to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise proudly with my colleague, Senator WYDEN. We are proud Oregonians every day but especially this day as we celebrate the great accomplishments of the Beavers of our State.

I suppose we are honorary members, neither of us having attended Oregon State, to be now members of "Beaver Nation," as it is known locally.

These great players, these great young men, overcame all the odds to win the college world series and become the NCAA Division I Baseball Champions. In doing so, the Beavers

not only brought home to OSU its first NCAA championship in any sport since 1916, they also became the first northern climate team to win the college world series.

We are very proud of them. They did it with a team full of young men from the greater Pacific Northwest, many of them from Oregon.

Under the leadership of their coach, Pat Casey, OSU made "Beaver believers" of many people—virtually all of Oregon. I think all of Oregon was tuned in yesterday to see their thrilling 3-to-2 victory.

While at the college world series in Omaha, they played eight games, and in six of those games they knew if they lost they went home. Well, they kept winning against all odds, and they come home to Corvallis, OR, champions of this great sport.

I suppose one of the things I look forward to is every year it seems as if an Oregon team gets to participate in what has become a White House tradition. That is when they meet with the President of the United States. I look forward especially this year to being able to not just congratulate the Oregon State University Beavers for this remarkable accomplishment, I look forward to escorting them with my colleague, Senator WYDEN, to the White House to meet America's No. 1 baseball fan, President Bush, for this great traditional ceremony of honoring the NCAA champs.

I stand before you, Mr. President, a "Beaver Believer" and thankful for the good job they did in bringing such distinction to our State.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, Senator SMITH said it very well.

I wanted to wrap up by noting a comment from pitcher Dallas Buck, who was the winning pitcher in the championship game.

When asked about why he stayed at Oregon State instead of going pro out of high school, I quote: "Best decision I ever made." And we happen to think that is the best decision a lot of young people are making in our State, to go to Oregon State University. It is a wonderful university, both for sports and academics.

We are going to salute them, as Senator SMITH has indicated, when we get a chance to join them at the White House with the President. That is what makes this so special for us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO DENISE WEISENBORN

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I commemorate a woman who dedicated her life to helping others: Denise Weisenborn. Living in Parma, OH, Denise was a lawyer and advocate of employment and independence for people with disabilities. Denise, who had muscular dystrophy, used a wheelchair all of her life, but never let that stop her from accomplishing her goals. Denise was 51 years old at the time of

her death on May 2, 2006. She is survived by her mother Mary Lucille and her sister Diane.

Denise spent her entire life overcoming obstacles and then exceeding all expectations. Even though she was unable to attend school, Denise had tutors help her at home during her younger years. As a student at Maple Heights High School, Denise was able to take part in classes while she was home. In 1972, Denise graduated as class valedictorian.

She carried on this legacy of academic success by majoring in foreign languages at Cleveland State University, graduating summa cum laude in 1976. Denise then attended Cleveland Marshall College of Law, where she served as an interpreter and finished in the top 20 percent of her class in 1980. She passed the bar exam later that year. These accomplishments were just the beginning of the amazing things Denise Weisenborn would accomplish throughout her life.

Denise worked in Columbus as an education lawyer for Ohio Legal Rights Services, where she helped families of children with disabilities get the educational services they needed. She presented a federal case, Roncker v. Walter, in the U.S. Court of Appeals Sixth Circuit. Eventually, the severity of her disability made a 40-hour work week very difficult, and she moved back to Cleveland to be closer to her supportive family.

She continued to give her talents to help people with disabilities by serving on the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission.

She also was an area representative for Assistive Technology of Ohio in the Cleveland area, where she developed medical equipment loan programs for medical goods and adaptive equipment, as well as compiling a directory of service providers.

Firmly believing that people with disabilities should be able to live independently, Denise moved from her parents' home to a federally-subsidized apartment building in Parma for people with physical disabilities and urged officials to build additional homes of this kind. Denise also called for home-based employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

She was a champion of a program called "Choices," funded through the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, where volunteers provided encouragement and community support to people with disabilities who lived in nursing homes but wanted to live independently in the community.

Many people were skeptical that this program would work, but Denise believed in the project. As a result of her leadership, hundreds of Ohioans with disabilities are now living independently in community settings. Denise's advocacy has helped so many people in both their personal and professional lives.